

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 680  
By Coleman

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Senior Master Sergeant Margaret A. Gilbert upon receiving the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, this Nation and its citizens are protected by individuals who serve in the United States Military and ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt.) Margaret A. Gilbert was recently named the national Recruiting and Retention Superintendent of the Year for the Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, as the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent for the State of Tennessee, SMSgt. Margaret Gilbert's responsibilities include management of seventeen recruiting and retention personnel and a \$157,000 recruiting and advertising budget; and

WHEREAS, born on July 19, 1950, in Nashville, SMSgt. Gilbert received her secondary education from the Rutherford County school system, graduating from Smyrna High School in 1968; she graduated from Draughon's Business College in 1969, from Tennessee State University with an Associate's degree in Personnel Administration in 1981, and from Trevecca Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resource Management; she holds an Associate Degree from the Community College of the Air Force in Personnel Administration; and

WHEREAS, before becoming a full-time recruiter for the Tennessee Air National Guard, SMSgt. Gilbert was enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard as an Information Management Specialist; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, she transferred to the Air National Guard as a personnel specialist, initially assigned to the State Headquarters unit as a personnel specialist in the Office of Equal Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, she was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and moved to the Headquarters Personnel Office, where she served as Assistant to the Executive Support Staff Officer; in 1986, SMSgt. Gilbert's interpersonal and organizational skills landed her a position as a recruiter for the 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, and in 1995 Margaret Gilbert was selected as the Recruiting Office Supervisor for the 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to her commitment and dedication, SMSgt. Gilbert has received numerous awards, including the Air Force Achievement Medal with one device, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and numerous state awards; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, SMSgt. Gilbert was selected as the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent, in which position she has dutifully served for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, in her capacity as Superintendent, Margaret Gilbert has developed, coordinated, and administered the State Tuition Assistance Program, which, in its first year, paid out \$445,000 in additional tuition assistance funds to members of the Army and Air National Guard; she has also developed comprehensive State Recruiting and Retention Plans in conjunction with the ROSSs, ROMs, and RRNCOs; and

WHEREAS, constantly focused on and devoted to the needs of the Recruiting and Retention Programs of the State of Tennessee, SMSgt. Gilbert serves with the utmost integrity, ability, and honor; and

WHEREAS, under her able guidance, five of the nine recruiters in this state completed their Bachelor's Degree during this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Gilbert is a volunteer for the Junior Achievement Organization; a member of the NAACP; secretary of NCOA Chapter 473; a member of the Enlisted Association of Tennessee; a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association; a committee member for

ESGR Middle Tennessee; a mentor for HRA Mentorship Program; and a member of the National Association of Black Veterans; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, SMSgt. Gilbert has received the President's Academic Excellence Award from Trevecca Nazarene University and the Henry K. Alexander Award for Outstanding Leadership and Stewardship presented by the Mount Zion Church in Smyrna, Tennessee, and she was also selected to *Who's Who Among College Students* in 2003; and

WHEREAS, a faithful and devout Christian, Margaret Gilbert is an active member of the Mount Zion Church in Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected citizen of her community, SMSgt. Gilbert is the very epitome of a good neighbor, as she always endeavors to treat others as she would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gilbert is also deeply devoted to her family, constantly true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Margaret Gilbert is most thankful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Alvin T. Gilbert; their marriage has been blessed with one wonderful child, April Falawn, and three grandchildren, James, Teheiria, and Emari; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Gilbert epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Gilbert for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Senior Master Sergeant Margaret A. Gilbert for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate her upon receiving the Air National Guard national Recruiting and Retention Superintendent of the Year Award, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.